IN THE CLAIMS:

A complete listing of the claims is set forth below:

1.   **(Original)** A system for facilitating negotiation of a standard for inter-enterprise collaboration between trading partners, comprising:

a set of one or more meta-model elements each capable of being negotiated by two or more enterprises and incorporated into a negotiated meta-model that describes an agreement between the enterprises as to collaborations between the enterprises, each meta-model element in the set describing a portion of a potential standard for collaboration between enterprises;

a meta-model negotiation service operable to:

receive an indication that two or more enterprises wish to negotiate a standard for collaborations between the enterprises;

provide access to the set of meta-model elements;

receive selections of one or more of the meta-model elements for negotiation and incorporation into a negotiated meta-model, the negotiated meta-model describing an agreement between the enterprises as to collaborations between the enterprises;

facilitate negotiation of the selected meta-model elements;

incorporate negotiated meta-model elements into the negotiated meta-model for collaborations between the enterprises; and

communicate the negotiated meta-model to the enterprises to enable collaborations between the enterprises according to the standard for collaborations reflected in the negotiated meta-model.

2.   **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the meta-model negotiation service is operable to communicate the negotiated meta-model to collaboration software of the enterprises, the collaboration software being operable to understand and collaborate according to the negotiated meta-model substantially automatically and substantially independent of modification to the collaboration software subsequent to negotiation of the meta-model.

3.   **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the agreement associated with the negotiated meta-model is machine-actionable at the collaboration software of the enterprises and reflects a private, differentiated standard for collaboration customized for particular needs of the enterprises.

4.   **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the meta-model elements within the set comprise one or more of the following:

role types;

dimensions each comprising a supply chain element;

dimensionalities each comprising a combination of supply chain elements;

access of particular role types to particular dimensionalities;

collaborative transaction types relative to particular dimensionalities;

shared operations visible to the at least two enterprises; and

temporal structures of collaborative transactions.

5.   **(Original)** The system of Claim 4, wherein a meta-model element specifying a collaborative transaction type relative to a particular dimensionality comprises one or more of the following:

structure of the transaction;

data elements associated with the transaction;

a state model describing a life cycle of the transaction;

access that a role type has to data elements of the transaction relative to a state of the transaction;

actions that a role type can execute on the transaction relative to a state of the transaction; and

whether the transaction is a system of record or whether synchronization must occur with another system of record.

6.   **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the set of meta-model elements is specified in a template.

7.   **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the meta-model negotiation service comprises a joint business planning network service (JBPNS).

8.   **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the meta-model negotiation service is associated with a network service provider through which the enterprises can negotiate the meta-model elements.

9.   **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the negotiated meta-model is represented using extensible markup language (XML).

10.   **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein a collaboration comprises execution of a business process or transaction according to the negotiated meta-model.

11.	**(Original)** A method for facilitating negotiation of a standard for inter-enterprise collaboration between trading partners, the method performed using one or more computers, the method comprising:

receiving an indication that two or more enterprises wish to negotiate a standard for collaborations between the enterprises;

providing access to a set of one or more meta-model elements, each meta-model element in the set capable of being negotiated by the enterprises and incorporated into a negotiated meta-model that describes an agreement between the enterprises as to collaborations between the enterprises, each meta-model element in the set describing a portion of a potential standard for collaboration between enterprises;

receiving selections of one or more of the meta-model elements for negotiation and incorporation into a negotiated meta-model, the negotiated meta-model describing an agreement between the enterprises as to collaborations between the enterprises;

facilitating negotiation of the selected meta-model elements;

incorporating negotiated meta-model elements into the negotiated meta-model for collaborations between the enterprises; and

communicating the negotiated meta-model to the enterprises to enable collaborations between the enterprises according to the standard for collaborations reflected in the negotiated meta-model.

12.	**(Original)** The method of Claim 11, further comprising communicating the negotiated meta-model to collaboration software of the enterprises, the collaboration software being operable to understand and collaborate according to the negotiated meta-model substantially automatically and substantially independent of modification to the collaboration software subsequent to negotiation of the meta-model.

13.   **(Original)** The method of Claim 11, wherein the agreement associated with the negotiated meta-model is machine-actionable at the collaboration software of the enterprises and reflects a private, differentiated standard for collaboration customized for particular needs of the enterprises.

14.   **(Original)** The method of Claim 11, wherein the meta-model elements within the set comprise one or more of the following:

role types;

dimensions each comprising a supply chain element;

dimensionalities each comprising a combination of supply chain elements;

access of particular role types to particular dimensionalities;

collaborative transaction types relative to particular dimensionalities;

shared operations visible to the at least two enterprises; and

temporal structures of collaborative transactions.

15.   **(Original)** The method of Claim 14, wherein a meta-model element specifying a collaborative transaction type relative to a particular dimensionality comprises one or more of the following:

structure of the transaction;

data elements associated with the transaction;

a state model describing a life cycle of the transaction;

access that a role type has to data elements of the transaction relative to a state of the transaction;

actions that a role type can execute on the transaction relative to a state of the transaction; and

whether the transaction is a system of record or whether synchronization must occur with another system of record.

16.   **(Original)** The method of Claim 11, wherein the set of meta-model elements is specified in a template.

17.   **(Original)** The method of Claim 11, wherein the meta-model negotiation service comprises a joint business planning network service (JBPNS).

18.   **(Original)** The method of Claim 11, wherein the meta-model negotiation service is associated with a network service provider through which the enterprises can negotiate the meta-model elements.

19.   **(Original)** The method of Claim 11, wherein the negotiated meta-model is represented using extensible markup language (XML).

20.   **(Original)** The method of Claim 11, wherein a collaboration comprises execution of a business process or transaction according to the negotiated meta-model.

21.   **(Original)** Software for facilitating negotiation of a standard for inter-enterprise collaboration between trading partners, the software embodied in computer-readable media and when executed operable to:

receive an indication that two or more enterprises wish to negotiate a standard for collaborations between the enterprises;

provide access to a set of one or more meta-model elements, each meta-model element in the set capable of being negotiated by the enterprises and incorporated into a negotiated meta-model that describes an agreement between the enterprises as to

collaborations between the enterprises, each meta-model element in the set describing a portion of a potential standard for collaboration between enterprises;

receive selections of one or more of the meta-model elements for negotiation and incorporation into a negotiated meta-model, the negotiated meta-model describing an agreement between the enterprises as to collaborations between the enterprises;

facilitate negotiation of the selected meta-model elements;

incorporate negotiated meta-model elements into the negotiated meta-model for collaborations between the enterprises; and

communicate the negotiated meta-model to the enterprises to enable collaborations between the enterprises according to the standard for collaborations reflected in the negotiated meta-model.

22.   **(Original)** The software of Claim 21, further operable to communicate the negotiated meta-model to collaboration software of the enterprises, the collaboration software being operable to understand and collaborate according to the negotiated meta-model substantially automatically and substantially independent of modification to the collaboration software subsequent to negotiation of the meta-model.

23.   (Original) The software of Claim 21, wherein the agreement associated with the negotiated meta-model is machine-actionable at the collaboration software of the enterprises and reflects a private, differentiated standard for collaboration customized for particular needs of the enterprises.

24.   (Original) The software of Claim 21, wherein the meta-model elements within the set comprise one or more of the following:

role types;

dimensions each comprising a supply chain element;

5 dimensionalities each comprising a combination of supply chain elements;

access of particular role types to particular dimensionalities;

collaborative transaction types relative to particular dimensionalities;

shared operations visible to the at least two enterprises; and

temporal structures of collaborative transactions.

25.   **(Original)** The software of Claim 24, wherein a meta-model element specifying a collaborative transaction type relative to a particular dimensionality comprises one or more of the following:

structure of the transaction;

data elements associated with the transaction;

a state model describing a life cycle of the transaction;

access that a role type has to data elements of the transaction relative to a state of the transaction;

actions that a role type can execute on the transaction relative to a state of the transaction; and

whether the transaction is a system of record or whether synchronization must occur with another system of record.

26.   **(Original)** The software of Claim 21, wherein the set of meta-model elements is specified in a template.

27.   **(Original)** The software of Claim 21, wherein the meta-model negotiation service comprises a joint business planning network service (JBPNS).

28.   **(Original)** The software of Claim 21, wherein the meta-model negotiation service is associated with a network service provider through which the enterprises can negotiate the meta-model elements.

29.   **(Original)** The software of Claim 21, wherein the negotiated meta-model is represented using extensible markup language (XML).

30.   **(Original)** The software of Claim 21, wherein a collaboration comprises execution of a business process or transaction according to the negotiated meta-model.

31.   **(Original)** A system for facilitating negotiation of a standard for inter-enterprise collaboration between trading partners, comprising:

means for receiving an indication that two or more enterprises wish to negotiate a standard for collaborations between the enterprises;

means for providing access to a set of one or more meta-model elements, each meta-model element in the set capable of being negotiated by the enterprises and incorporated into a negotiated meta-model that describes an agreement between the enterprises as to collaborations between the enterprises, each meta-model element in the set describing a portion of a potential standard for collaboration between enterprises;

means for receiving selections of one or more of the meta-model elements for negotiation and incorporation into a negotiated meta-model, the negotiated meta-model describing an agreement between the enterprises as to collaborations between the enterprises;

means for facilitating negotiation of the selected meta-model elements;

means for incorporating negotiated meta-model elements into the negotiated meta-model for collaborations between the enterprises; and

means for communicating the negotiated meta-model to the enterprises to enable collaborations between the enterprises according to the standard for collaborations reflected in the negotiated meta-model.

32-50. **(Canceled)**